



PRESS NOTICE

BILL NETTLES UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUMTER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FRAUD INVOLVING CHICKEN PARTS

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Dwayne Lemont Budden, age 36, of Sumter, pled guilty in federal court in Columbia to Mail Fraud, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341. United States District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie accepted the plea and will impose sentence on March 8, 2012.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that Dwayne Budden owned and operated the Budden Company, LLC, along with a relative. The Budden Company had an agreement with Pilgrim's Pride, a chicken processor, and its predecessor, GoldKist, to remove waste from the Sumter facility. The agreement required processing waste to be disposed by the Budden Company at the Lee County Landfill. However, the Budden Company transported chicken offal and other

by-products of the GoldKist/Pilgrim's Pride facility to family property in Pinewood, South Carolina, where it was buried without a permit. Budden then submitted forged Lee County Landfill tickets for reimbursement to both GoldKist and Pilgrim's Pride, causing them to pay around \$2.4 million in disposal fees.

Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty Budden can receive is a fine of \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for 20 years, plus a special assessment of \$100.

The case was investigated by agents of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC). Assistant United States Attorney Winston D. Holliday, Jr., of the Columbia office handled the case.

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